Export of natural stones

2024. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export of natural stones like granite/ marble/sand stone had grown to Rs. 31,150 crores during 2005-06 and more than 40 per cent of the products are obtained in quarries adopting blast method;

(b) whether it is necessary to envisage to go for modernization in the extraction process instead of depending on blast methods in view of the fact that the demand from international market is going up; and

(c) the details of the initiative in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) As per available information, the total value of exports of granite, marble, sand stone and other building stones during 2005-06 was Rs. 4332 crores. Granite, marble, Sand stone and other building stones are minor minerals. State Governments have been empowered to make rules for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith.

(c) Ministry of Mines constituted a technical committee in 1998 for suggesting the desirable degree of mechanization/machineries required to be installed in granite quarries. The Committee suggested the use of modern techniques like hydraulically operated hammer in conjunction with feather and wedges, diamond wire saw, large capacity hydraulic jacks etc. Granite (Conservation and Development) Rules have been notified in 1999 and Marble Development and Conservation Rules in 2002 for conservation, systematic development and scientific mining of granite and marble in the country.

Possession of mines by SAIL

2025. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL is having some major problems in having possession of Chiria and Rawghat iron ore mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to overcome the hurdles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) An area of 2028.797 hectares has been reserved by the Central Government in "F" block deposit of Rowghat in Kanker and Bastar districts of Chhattisgarh in favour of SAIL.

States, as the owners of minerals grant mining leases, and do not require prior approval of the Central Government for renewal of mining leases for minerals in Part 'C' of the First schedule of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

Wakf properties in the country

2026. SHRI MAHEANDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many wakf properties are there in the country;

(b) how many wakf properties have been under encroachment;

(c) whether in many cases the encroachment has been done by Central/ State Government or their agencies; and

(d) whether Government propose to give a one time grant for fencing of the wakf properties in the country to avoid further encroachment?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information received from State Governments/State Wakf Boards regarding illegal occupation/encroachment of wakf properties is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(c) Reports have been received about wakf properties being in the possession of Central/State Government organizations.

(d) There is no such proposal.